

# Longmont

## POWER & COMMUNICATIONS



### Portrait of Efficiency: Retrofit Brings Quality Lighting and Cost Savings to Longmont Council for the Arts

Since 1985, Longmont Council for the Arts (LCA) has been a driving force for cultural and artistic programs in Longmont. The LCA office is located in the Muse Gallery, a 2,500 square foot leased space at 356 Main Street that is a cooperative venture to spotlight local, regional, and national artists.

Controlling costs is important to LCA, a small non-profit enterprise. Quality lighting is important to the Muse Gallery as it showcases work for sale. That combination led to a lighting retrofit that achieves both goals.

Track lighting highlights the artwork displayed on the gallery walls. Before the retrofit, it consisted of 78 50-watt halogen bulbs. The gallery and office area also had 20 fluorescent ceiling light fixtures with a total of 60 old T-12 bulbs.

“We had talked several times about changing out the track lighting,” said Joanne Kirves, Executive Director of LCA, “but it was just too expensive. The track lighting is on 90% of the time. The halogen bulbs were very hot and have a short life. We had to replace 2-3 bulbs every month.”

So Kirves was ready to listen when LPC offered to do a free lighting assessment and create a proposal for a lighting retrofit.

“I knew that lighting rebates and a grant were available, but I didn’t realize how much it would be,” said Kirves. “The amount of the grant from the City was icing on the cake. We really didn’t have to do anything. Platte River and LPC did most of the work. They were great.” Ertl Inc., the property owner, had realized significant savings from a previous lighting retrofit on the second floor (offices) and encouraged LCA to do the project using its lighting contractor.

### By The Numbers

**Project:** Upgrade lighting in 2,500 square foot office and gallery

**Old fixtures:** 78 50-watt halogen lamps (track lighting); 20 overhead fluorescent light fixtures (60 T-12 lamps, 4 and 8-foot, 40 and 60-watt, with magnetic ballast)

**New fixtures:** 78 7-watt LED lamps; 60 linear LED lamps, 17 and 34-watt hardwired

**Total project cost:** \$8,153

**Total incentives:** \$6,115

**Net project cost:** \$2,038

**Est. annual energy savings:** 13,784 kWh

**Est. annual electric cost savings:** \$1,016

**Simple payback:** 2 years

*“We’re saving a lot of money on replacement bulbs. In fact, the savings on bulb replacements alone was enough to convince me to do the project. Our lower electric bill is icing on the cake.”*

— Joanne Kirves  
Longmont Council  
for the Arts

**The Bottom Line:** The total incentives covered 75% of project costs and provided an estimated energy reduction of 13,784 KWh each year. LCA and the Muse gallery are expected to realize an estimated cost savings of \$1,016 annually, and the new lighting fixtures are guaranteed for five years, reducing maintenance costs.

**More About LED Lighting:** LEDs, or light emitting diodes, are semiconductor devices that produce visible light when an electrical current passes through them. They are assembled into lamps or bulbs for use in lighting fixtures. LEDs also provide longer life and use significantly less electricity compared to incandescent lamps.

LEDs have a higher initial cost, but rebates are often available from the local utility or retailer. Their light quality is similar to the quality of light found in traditional, incandescent bulbs. In fact, according to Kirves, “My concern was that the new lights wouldn’t be as good as the old lights but we compared the old and new lights side by side and couldn’t tell any difference.”

